REMARKS

Applicants note that all amendments, cancellations, and additions of Claims presented herein are made without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments or rejections, and solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG), and without waiving the right to prosecute the cancelled claims (or similar claims) in the future.

In the Office Action mailed 11/20/08, the Examiner required a species election of a species of oligonucleotide selected from SEQ ID NOS: 3-8. The Applicants hereby elect the species of SEQ ID NO: 3 for initial examination. Claims 1-7 read upon the elected species. The Applicants remind the Examiner that, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants are entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent for or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim (37 C.F.R. 1.141).

⁶⁵ Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept., 8, 2000).

CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (618) 218-6900.

Dated: December 22, 2008 /Tanya A. Arenson/
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